Copy.

Rodburg —

April 15, 1895 =

Dear Mr. Potter:

Be assured that I fully appreciate the mark of personal respect as evinced by the statement in your fraternal letter, that the Executive Committee of the Free Religious Association have voted to recommend to the Committee on Nominating Officers, at the ensuing Annual Meeting, my name to be put in the list of Vice Presidents of the Association —

In respectfully declining the proposed nomination, it is not because I am not radically opposed to priestcraft, in whatever guise it may appear — agreeing with John Milton that —

MS.A.1.1 v.8, p.706

"Old Priest is but new Presbyter writ large." or that I am not for "Free religion" as against all Papal authority and all Protestant intolerance — or that I am not in full sympathy with all brave, independent, upright souls who are for taking nothing upon trust, and everything according to its intrinsic value, in matters of religious faith and practice — or that I shrink from any odium that may be attached to "the Free Religious Association"; but for various other reasons, special to myself, which it is not necessary to specify.

Yours to "prove all things, and to hold fast that which is good",

Wm Lloyd Garrison —

To Rev. Wm J. Potter.

Ms. A. 1.1 v.8, p. 70B